Docket No.: 21829/101 (EBC-00

PATE

HE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants

Wei et al.

Examiner: To Be Assigned

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April 9, 2001

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

P.O. Box 2327

Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

In response to the May 24, 2002, written restriction requirement, applicants hereby elect Group 1 (i.e. claims 1-18) with traverse. Applicants submit that the claims of the present application are closely related and, therefore, require common areas of search and consideration. Since no benefit is derived from imposing this restriction requirement, it should be withdrawn in its entirety.

Date: June 14, 2002

Edwin V. Merkel

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